



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Each Department/District Head

At its meeting held September 16, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

Chief Administrative Officer's recommendation to approve budget adjustments for use of additional Fiscal Year 2002-03 General Fund, Hospital Enterprise and Special Funds fund balances in Fiscal Year 2003-04 County Budget.

On motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Board adopted the Chief Administrative Officer's attached recommendations and took various actions as indicated below.

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

"For many years, the citizens in the unincorporated area have benefited from the work of the Department of Regional Planning. This Department has taken an active role in facilitating economic development and in supporting business retention efforts through the timely processing of land development permits. To meet these needs the Board has consistently maintained planning and zoning services to our communities to protect the health and safety of our citizens while recognizing the rights of property owners to develop their land in a timely manner.

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“The pending workload in the Department of Regional Planning has resulted in an unacceptable level of service at the downtown public counter and at the nine regional field offices where Regional Planning staff are available. Unlike many other jurisdictions that staff their public counters on a full-time basis, Regional Planning’s public counter is only open during the afternoons. Additionally, Regional Planning employees are available in the nine field offices on a limited basis, in some instances only one half-day per week (one of these offices, located in Lancaster, is a seventy-mile drive from downtown Los Angeles). This condition must not be allowed to continue since the economic impacts on our business community and housing market would be too great.

“To address this issue, the Department of Regional Planning has already identified priority needs for Fiscal Year 2003-04 in a letter addressed to this Board on May 14, 2003. To appropriately address the immediate need for more case intake and counseling resources, Regional Planning has requested additional funding to expand its ability to provide zoning counseling and planning advisory services at the downtown public counter and in the field offices.

“The funding will increase the service hours at the downtown public information counter by extending hours to include mornings. The funding will significantly increase the service hours that planners are available in the nine field offices.

“Funding for this effort will positively impact the Department's ability to provide convenient, timely and courteous service and promote service excellence to residents in the unincorporated areas. This action will promote quality improvement and organizational effectiveness that responds to the vital role that the Department of Regional Planning plays in business retention and housing production. These measures will implement key reforms recommended in the recent management audit of the Department and further implement the Department's strategic plan.

“The expanded service hours will allow better service to our business community and property owners in the unincorporated area. The recommended action will also implement a portion of the recent management audit conducted in the Department.”

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Yaroslavsky, Knabe, Antonovich and Burke; Noes: Supervisor Molina, the Board authorized funding in the amount of \$449,000 from the Appropriation for Contingencies to the Regional Planning Department which includes \$160,000 to support expanded service hours in the Department's downtown headquarters and \$289,000 for additional staffing in the Department's nine field offices.

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“Historically, the Department of Public Works has had a net County cost (NCC) allocation approved in the annual budget for special projects in the Public Ways/Public Facilities General Fund Budget. This NCC allocation funded emergency or urgently needed projects such as landslide mitigation unrelated to Flood Control and Road projects or rights of way that could not be financed using restricted funds.

“As a result of the State's budget deficit, the Fiscal Year 2003-04 NCC allocation for special projects in the Public Ways/Public Facilities Budget was eliminated as a measure to help absorb the funding curtailments that the State is passing on to the County.

“Public Works will, of course, respond to emergencies and urgently needed projects as identified by the Board of Supervisors that are not eligible for funding from their restricted funds. However, general funds will then need to be appropriated to Public Works. It seems to be more efficient that the historical NCC funding to Public Works continue.”

Jim Noyes, Director of Public Works, addressed the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Antonovich made a motion that the Board instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to restore \$200,000 to the Fiscal Year 2003-04 Public Ways/Public Facilities General Fund Budget for special projects.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a suggestion that Supervisor Antonovich's motion be amended to instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to instead restore \$100,000 to the Fiscal Year 2003-04 Public Ways/Public Facilities General Fund Budget for special projects, and return to the Board if necessary to increase the funding. Supervisor Antonovich accepted Supervisor Yaroslavsky's amendment.

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Supervisor Antonovich's motion, as amended, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, was duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Yaroslavsky, Knabe, Antonovich and Burke; Noes: Supervisor Molina.

Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

"In 1998, the Board approved an ordinance creating an Accumulative Capital Outlay Account to support the purchase of medical equipment associated with the LAC+USC Medical Center Replacement Project.

"The Board must ensure that the use of these funds is appropriately monitored to prevent waste and abuse in the procurement of equipment. To date, the Board has not been provided a detailed, itemized plan for how this account will be utilized.

"Additionally, as noted by the Chief Administrative Officer, the original ordinance was drafted to allow any funds deposited into this account to be used only for the purchase of medical equipment. We have now been informed that the transition into the new hospital will require not only the purchase of new medical equipment, but the information systems necessary to implement a paperless clinical environment and other costs to support the transition of patients from the current hospital to the new facility as well."

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Auditor-Controller to report back in 30 days on what safeguards exist to ensure the use of funds from the Accumulative Capital Outlay Account for the purchase of medical equipment associated with the LAC+USC Medical Center Replacement Project are properly authorized by the Board and include in the report recommendations for strengthening the oversight and monitoring of this account;
2. Instructed the Auditor-Controller to establish a Provisional Financing Unit to serve as a repository for the \$105 million designated for the Accumulative Capital Outlay Account until a detailed report is prepared by the Department of Health Services outlining how the funds will be used, and until that report is presented to and adopted by the Board; and

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3. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Health Services to work with County Counsel and the Auditor-Controller to draft an amendment to Section 4.16.220 of Title 4 of the County Code to expand the allowable use of funds in the Accumulative Capital Outlay Account to include other activities related to the replacement project, such as transition of patients and staff to the new facility and to make any amendments necessary, based on the Auditor-Controller's report, to strengthen the oversight of the management of this account.

On motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Molina, Yaroslavsky, Knabe, Antonovich and Burke; Noes: None, the Board authorized an account to be established in Provisional Financing Uses in amount of \$3,451,333; and requested the Sheriff to report back to the Board within 30 days on how he plans to use the funds for Sheriff suppression programs, what areas of the County will be included in the programs, and what would be accomplished with this allocation. (ALSO SEE S-1 THIS DATE)

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Attachment

Copies distributed:
Each Supervisor